

CHANNEL ISLANDS NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY SANCTUARY ADVISORY COUNCIL

FINAL MEETING NOTES

September 13, 2002
8:30 am – 12:45 pm

Chase Palm Park Center
Santa Barbara, CA

The following final notes summarize the September 13, 2002 meeting of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council (SAC). These meeting notes will be posted on the CINMS website at: www.cinms.nos.noaa.gov/sacmin.html. Audio tapes of SAC meetings are available from the CINMS office: 805-966-7107.

Attendance

Attending:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Member Tim Setnicka
Alternate Gary Davis

US COAST GUARD

Member J. Wade Russell

MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE

Member Drew Mayerson
Alternate Fred Piltz, Ph.D.

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Member Alex Stone

COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Member Dianne Meester [SAC Chair]
Alternate Jackie Campbell

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Alternate Jack Peveler

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Member Jeanette Webber [SAC Secretary]

RECREATION

Member Jim Brye
Alternate Eric Kett

BUSINESS

Member Michael Hanrahan

CONSERVATION

Alternate Greg Helms

FISHING

Member Harry Liqournik
Alternate2 Merit McCrea

EDUCATION

Alternate Kathy deWet-Oleson

RESEARCH

Member Dr. Robert Warner
Alternate Dr. Dan Brumbaugh

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Alternate Richard Holt

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Dr. Matthew Cahn
Alternate Roberta Cordero

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

LCDR Matthew Pickett, Manager

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Alternate: Sean Morton, Management Plan Coordinator

Absent:

GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Member Mark Helvey
Alternate Christina Fahy

US COAST GUARD

Alternate Troy Rentz

US DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Alternate Walter Schobel

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

Member Patricia Wolf
Alternate LT. Jorge Gross

CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY

Member Brian Baird
Alternate Melissa Miller- Henson

CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Member Rebecca Roth
Alternate Gary Timm

COUNTY OF VENTURA

Member Lyn Krieger

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES:

TOURISM

Alternate Alex Brodie

BUSINESS

Alternate Don Dusette

CONSERVATION

Member Linda Krop

FISHING

Alternate1 Eric Hooper

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Robert Duncan
Alternate Avie Guerra

PUBLIC AT-LARGE

Member Jon Clark [SAC Vice Chair]

NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary

Bill Douros, Sanctuary Superintendent

Gulf of the Farallones & Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuaries

Ed Ueber, Manager

At roll call, 13 of the 20 voting seats were represented, with an additional 2 seats represented after late arrivals. There were a total of 24 SAC representatives in attendance for the day (11 members, 11 alternates, 2 non-voting). Public attendance averaged about 25 individuals.

Administrative & Announcements

Merit McCrea introduced himself as the SAC's newly appointed second alternate to the fishing seat. Merit briefly described his background, including his more than twenty years of experience with commercial passenger fishing vessels (16 years with his own boat) visiting the Channel Islands. Merit commented that he is currently pursuing a biology degree.

Larry Manson, who recently resigned from the SAC's education seat because of work schedule conflicts, offered a sincere thanks to the Council for all of their work. Larry said that he has been amazed by everyone's knowledge and commitment, and hopes the SAC's important work will continue. He also said that he hopes the Sanctuary will one day see a boundary expansion and marine reserves. Sanctuary Manager Matt Pickett presented Larry with a plaque of appreciation, recognizing Larry's more than three years of service to the SAC.

Nancy Berenson, speaking on behalf of Donna Schroeder, announced that the Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary Foundation is holding a fundraiser event aboard the Condor Express on Sunday evening, September 22.

Matt Pickett announced that Chris Mobley had recently been hired to become the next Sanctuary Manager. Matt commented that he felt Chris would be a very good fit for the Sanctuary. Matt said that Chris should start to work on November 1st. Matt also announced the recent hiring on contract of Sarah MacWilliams, who will be assisting with the management plan revision process and the Sanctuary Advisory Council.

Meeting Minutes

Notes from the May 8th and July 12th, 2002 SAC meetings were unanimously approved by the Council and will be posted on the Sanctuary's web site.

Council Member Announcements

Jeanette Webber commented that tourism had good this summer, but a downturn is expected for the winter. She noted that few overseas visitors are planning trips to visit the area.

Greg Helms announced that the California and the Worlds Ocean Conference is coming up in Santa Barbara at the end of October.

Sean Morton announced that the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary was celebrating its 10 year anniversary, and that there are a lot of celebratory community events being held.

Dianne Meester reported that a party for John Patton, recently retired Director of the Planning and Development Department for Santa Barbara County, is being held on Wednesday Sept. 18. Dianne also said that she has been appointed Interim Director of the Department.

Mike Murray told the Council that at the October 18-19 SAC retreat he hopes to be talking with them about the five-year Action Plans developed by staff.

Tim Setnicka announced that the Channel Islands National Park would soon be releasing a newsletter that describes preliminary alternatives for the park's General Management Plan revision. Tim also said that public hearings will be held, including one in Santa Barbara on Sept. 19.

Bob Warner commented that the upcoming (Oct. 26-29) California and the Worlds Ocean Conference is significant, noting that previous conferences have lead to changes in ocean policy. Bob encouraged everyone to attend the conference. Bob also commented that a new brochure on the science of marine reserves would be released soon, along with a video. A sample of the brochure was passed around.

Michael Hanrahan reported that The Ocean Channel is working on developing an Encyclopedia of the Sanctuary for CINMS, which will be an important educational tool for teachers and students. He also said that the Tomol channel crossing video is completed and will be showing at the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum.

Kathy deWet-Oleson announced that she will be teaching new outdoor education courses at Moorpark College, including classes on both the Channel Islands and Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuaries.

Matt Cahn announced that California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI) is now open, and that they are actively looking for partnerships and opportunities to work with others in the community.

Identifying Priorities: Socio-Economic Monitoring for Marine Reserves

The SAC participated in an exercise designed to allow the Council to provide input on the relative priority of various types of socio-economic monitoring projects that could be implemented after marine reserves are designated.

CINMS Resource Protection Specialist Sean Hastings began by explaining how ideas had been developed thus far, tracing the role of the Marine Reserves Working Group in developing initial ideas for socio-economic monitoring, and referencing the extensive baseline data that had been gathered by NOAA economists and their partners.

Sean explained how the next is to convene experts and user group interests at a workshop that will be aimed at producing actual monitoring program plans for CINMS. In order to help structure the workshop, Sean explained, CINMS and NOAA economists want to know now what kinds of monitoring projects are of interest to the SAC.

Sean then referred the Council to a handout that provided a list, developed by NOAA economists Leeworthy and Wiley, of potential monitoring projects falling into the categories of commercial fishing, recreational consumptive activities, and non-consumptive recreational activities.

The Council asked several questions about the list of proposed projects, and some members made suggestions for modifications or additions to the list.

After the suggestions were noted by staff and displayed on overhead transparencies, SAC members and alternates filled out a survey sheet. Each survey provided to CINMS included the Council members' rank assignment (i.e. 1=highest) for each possible monitoring program.

Tallied results of the surveys were not presented at the meeting because absent members and alternates will also be given a chance to respond to the survey. Overall results will be shared in the future.

Public Comments

Sandy Delano asked for a copy of the socio-economic monitoring program survey.

Paul Petrich, a seasonal fisherman, said that the edge effect of marine reserves is real, and important. He said that he has seen the most success with salmon in Alaska. He suggested that some of the fishermen's interview panels being suggested for socio-economic monitoring purposes needed to include "marginal" fishermen, then he felt that would be someone like himself.

Presentation: Central Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board: Partnering with Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

Julia Dyer, Environmental Specialist with the Central Coast Region of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, gave a presentation about her organization and ways in which partnering with CINMS might be possible.

Julia explained the various responsibilities and authority of the Regional Board, and the structure and function of the Central Coast regional office, defined several key terms and introduced specific legislation pertinent to the Board's authority.

Julia also described the Central Coast Ambient Monitoring Program (CCAMP), which provides a 5-year rotational monitoring of the region.

Based on a review of the Sanctuary's goals and purpose, Julia emphasized the following basic ways that her Regional office and CINMS might partner together: 1) Protection of Natural Resources; 2) Combine Resource Protection with an Array of Land Uses; 3) Public Awareness; 4) Research and Monitoring; 5) Identify Emergent/Critical Issues. More specifically, Julia had the following suggestions for work that could be done in partnership:

- Communicate with staff on a project specific basis
- Consult with Sanctuary staff regarding the specific beneficial uses of the Channel Islands
- Participate in outreach events and classroom education to facilitate community awareness
- Share data and research
- Field tours
- Encourage SAC and Sanctuary staff to join CCAMP list server
- Sanctuary staff to attend Board Meetings relevant to Santa Barbara and make comments as necessary
- Regional Board to provide comments on Channel Islands reports

The SAC engaged in discussion and questions following Julia's presentation.

Presentation: Regional Monitoring in Southern California and in the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary

CINMS Research Coordinator Sarah Fangman provided the Council with a presentation on a regional marine monitoring project called Bight [as in the Southern California Bight] '98, and the upcoming continuation of the program (called Bight '03).

Sarah began by characterizing the scattered state of attempts to assess the regional marine water quality, and explained that in response Bight '98 was designed to conduct integrated, coordinated regional

surveys. Sarah explained that CINMS was one of 62 organizations that participated in Bight '98 which studies fish and invertebrate populations, pollution and sediment toxicity.

Bight '98, Sarah explained, attempted to address three questions: 1) coastal ecology: what is the extent of contaminants in southern California?; 2) shoreline microbiology: what percent of shoreline mile days meet water quality standards?; 3) water quality: what is the spatial extent of stormwater on the coastal ocean?

Sarah reported that CINMS conducted nine cruises in the summer of 1998, conducting trawl surveys at 31 stations around the Channel Islands, grab samples at 37 stations, and two separate cruises to collect water samples.

Sarah said that some of the preliminary results from the analysis of Bight '98 samples include such findings as a reduction in fish anomalies from 1994 to 1998, 85-97% of fish and invertebrates have healthy biointegrity indices (except near rivermouths); the Santa Clara River contained high DDT levels in sediments; and 100% of island fish (and 99% of the Bight) contained DDT above predator risk levels.

Sarah explained that CINMS has just begun to work with others on the planning for Bight '03. She said that soon she will be negotiating to try to get as much work performed around the islands as possible in exchange for offering CINMS resources (namely, research vessel and staff time).

Following the presentation, Council discussion turned to the question of what the SAC could do to help. **A motion introduced by Jack Peveler which was approved unanimously by voice vote, called for the SAC to write a letter to the coordinators of Bight '03 offering support for the project and urging that the Channel Islands be included as an important component.** Given that the best opportunity to present the letter was only a few days away, the Council agreed that this letter should be "fast-tracked" for Dianne Meester's signature.

Working Group and Ad Hoc Group Progress Reports

Sanctuary Education Team (SET)

Kathy deWet-Oleson, Chair of the SET, announced that the group had reached final agreement on a mission statement, which she read as follows: "The Sanctuary Education Team role is to assist the Sanctuary Advisory Council in making recommendations to the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The SET's mission is to advance public understanding of the biodiversity, ecology, and cultural legacy that comprise this unique and diverse region and to promote stewardship of marine ecosystems."

Kathy explained that the SET is currently focused on developing strategies for communicating awareness about marine reserves, and also to explain the function, purpose and value of reserves. Kathy mentioned that recent guest speakers who had been very helpful to the SET included Mark Becker (commercial fisherman) and Satie Airame (CINMS science advisor).

Kathy reported that the SET regards PISCO's new Science of Marine Reserves booklet to be very valuable, and feels that a simplified version would be good for a wider audience. Kathy said that the next goal for SET is to hold a joint meeting with the SAC's Ad Hoc Group on Marine Reserves Enforcement, which could be October 16 (the date of the next scheduled SET meeting).

CINMS Education Coordinator Julie Bursek took a few minutes to comment on a recent MPA Education Workshop that she and Laura Francis attended in Morro Bay. Julie reported that topics of discussion included the role of the national MPA centers (for science and education); defining educational needs for MPAs; public perceptions about MPAs (based on new Sea Web polls); and educational curriculum for marine reserves. Much of this, Julie noted, aligns well with the work of the SET.

Ad Hoc Group on Marine Reserves Enforcement

Sean Hastings, reporting for Ad hoc Group Chair Robert Duncan, reported that the group had last met in July and had tried but not been able to find a suitable meeting date in August at which all of the appropriate agency representatives could attend.

Sean said that meeting notes from the July meeting would be coming soon. Sean also stated that the Ad Hoc Group did want to meet jointly with the SET, and that the October 16th date would be considered.

Biological Monitoring and Evaluation of Marine Reserves

Sarah Fangman recapped the process the SAC had recently worked through to provide recommendations to CINMS on how to start developing a biological monitoring and evaluation program for marine reserves at the Channel Islands. Sarah summarized that the advice given by the SAC was that CINMS pull together information on existing monitoring programs in place at the islands as well marine reserve monitoring programs from other locations, and form a task force of experts to help design a monitoring program.

Sarah reported she has been working on documenting a synthesis of existing monitoring programs at the islands which could potentially be helpful for marine reserve monitoring. Over the next few weeks, Sarah said, work would start on inviting members to be part of a task force to help develop plans for a marine reserves monitoring program. The hope is, Sarah said, for a first meeting to take place in November.

Marine Reserves Regulatory Process Update

Sean Hastings reported that NOAA had submitted a comment letter to the California Department of Fish and Game regarding the CEQA document on MPAs for the CINMS (the letter was sent to all SAC representatives). Sean also mentioned that in the NOAA letter a reference is made to the federal process expected to follow from the state's decision on marine reserves.

John Ugoretz with the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) announced that as of today an emergency closure had been enacted prohibiting trawling for spot prawn for 120 days. The reason for the closure, John said, had to do with concerns about bycatch.

John announced that recently the fifth and final seat on the California Fish and Game Commission had been filled by a new appointee of the Governor: Mr. Bob Hattoy. John also announced that on August 30th the Fish and Game Commission voted to change the adoption meeting date for CINMS MPAs from December 2002 to October 2002. A special hearing in Santa Barbara is being considered, but the date is not yet scheduled.

Regarding the draft environmental document on CINMS MPAs, John reported that 2800 comments were received. 2700 of those comments, John said, were from a form e-mail. John said that twenty letters representing 127 different comments will require a formal CEQA response.

At the Fish and Game Commission's adoption meeting, John thought it is likely that public comment will be taken, but that it may be significantly structured and limited.

Concerning the Marine Life Protection Act (MLPA), John reported that the Santa Barbara/Ventura regional working group will be having their initial meeting on Sept. 18 from 9:00-4:30 at the Santa Barbara Harbor. Similar to the SAC's former Marine Reserve Working Group, John said, the public can attend these meetings but will be asked to comment through group members.

John said he expects the working group processes may take about two years to complete, but that the current legally mandated deadline does not allow for that. However, John noted that there is a senate bill up for consideration in the state legislature that would provide additional time for MLPA implementation.

SAC Communications

In a continuation of talks started at the last SAC meeting concerning use policies for the Council's e-mail list, Harry Liquornik suggested that perhaps there should be a second list-serv that could remain open for debate and discussions. Harry noted that the MRWG had this and it was healthy and helped to build understanding and respect among participants.

SAC discussion followed and mostly centered on how a list-serv might be structured so that the problems previously encountered would not return, and so that the public would not feel completely shut out.

Dan Brumbaugh described the idea of a SAC list-serv whereby members could engage in discussion or debate, and non-members could subscribe as well to see the exchanges, and as well anyone could view an archival of the discussions. Greg Helms made a motion to suggest that the SAC list-serv be set up as Dan Brumbaugh suggested, and Jeanette Webber seconded the motion. After some additional discussion, the motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Future Meetings

It was announced by Nancy Berenson that the SAC retreat to Santa Cruz Island, set for October 18-19, is in jeopardy of being cancelled due to low turnout. Nancy described the event and encouraged SAC members to attend. Dianne Meester asked Council members to get back to Nancy within a week.

It was also confirmed that the next SAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **November 13**, 2002 in Ventura.

For 2003, the SAC agreed on the following meeting schedule:

- Friday, January 17, 2003
- Friday, March 21, 2003
- Friday, May 16, 2003
- Friday, July 18, 2003
- Friday, September 19, 2003
- Friday, November 14, 2003

Meeting notes respectfully submitted by:
Michael Murray
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
michael.murray@noaa.gov